



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Ross at Victoria Harbor in 1832. (3.) Capt. Hall, in 1868, was within thirty miles of the reported position of the cairn, but heard nothing of it.

MICROSCOPY.¹

MICROSCOPICAL SECTION, TROY SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION.—A regular meeting of this Society was held on Monday evening, May 6th, the Chairman, Dr. R. H. Ward, in the chair.

Dr. Ward gave a discussion of some recent experiments in microscopic ruling, an account of which will be published shortly. Rev. A. B. Hervey, Vice-Chairman of the Section, gave a very clear summary of the classification of algæ by means of fructification, and illustrated the six principal groups into which the Red sea-weeds are divided by the following preparations: No. 1, *Ceramium rubrum* Ag., showing in its various stages of development, the fruit produced by the simple subdivision of the cell-contents of a fructified mother-cell; No. 2, *Callophyllis variegata* Ag., having the nucleus of the cystocarp compound, and the masses of spores separated by intervening sterile cells; No. 3, *Plocamium procerum* Ag., from the highest order in the third series, the spores being produced by the gradual development of bead-like strings of small cells, or "spore threads," arising from a common base or centre and often branched, and when fully developed, filling the cystocarp with a mass of sub-angular spores, all the cells of a given spore-thread appearing to develop simultaneously, but some of the threads in these sections, not having been fecundated and developed, appearing in their original state and form; No. 4, *Curdiea laciniata* Harvey, showing characteristic fruit of the series where a mass of fine, closely packed, moniliform "spore threads," arising from a basal placenta, form the spores by the successive ripening and falling off of the end cells of the fecundated threads; No. 5, *Gelidium cartilagineum* Grev., illustrating the series having an immersed cystocarp, a placenta central as in this species or more frequently basal or parietal, and club-shaped spores developed at the end of very short spore threads; and No. 6, *Polysiphonia fibrillosa* Grev., having the cystocarp external and somewhat highly developed, and the spores large and club-shaped. The specimens were mounted in sea-water and glycerine, by the instantaneous method described in the May number of the NATURALIST, and showed the typical fructification of the different series with great distinctness. After study and discussion by the section, the series of slides was tendered as a special box to the "Postal Club."

A regular meeting was held Monday evening, June 3d, Dr. Ward in the chair. The chairman presented a box of slides prepared for the section by Mr. C. C. Merriman, of Rochester, a corresponding member. The slides were mainly the result of Mr.

¹This department is edited by Dr. R. H. WARD, Troy, N. Y.

Merriman's scientific work during a recent visit to the Bermudas, and were prepared with some originality of method, and with exquisite workmanship. After study of the objects, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Merriman for his donation.

Mr. C. E. Hanaman made some remarks in regard to the methods he had found most convenient for cleaning and handling slides and cover-glasses.

For cleaning slides as received from the hands of the dealers, a solution which has long been used by photographers for cleaning their negative plates and glass vessels, is as efficacious as the nitric acid bath, and wholly free from its disagreeable odors. The mixture consists of a cold saturated solution of bichromate of potash in water, to which about one-eighth its bulk of strong sulphuric acid is added, the mixture being made in a porcelain or thin glass vessel, as the heat evolved would be likely to break a bottle, and the vessel being kept outside a window until the mixture is cool, after which no more injurious vapor will be given off, and the liquor will be ready for use. A gross or two of slides may be cleaned in an incredibly short time by sliding them one by one into a porcelain vessel containing some of this liquid, tilting the vessel about a few moments to cause the liquid to flow through the mass, and then pouring off the liquid and placing the vessel under the stream from an open tap for a few minutes. They are then wiped dry with soft linen cloths, and spread upon a clean sheet of paper, each slide being gently breathed upon on both sides, and the most perfect surface, which exhibits the most perfect film of moisture, being placed downwards. They are then centered on a self-centering turn table, upon the upper or poorest side, by a dot and a ring of india ink; they may then be placed on their edges in a box or drawer, and kept from contact by little strips of blotting paper placed between their ends.

The cover glasses, after being treated with the cleaning liquid and thoroughly washed with distilled or filtered water, are picked out with the forceps, one by one, and dried by laying each on one corner of a soft linen cloth on the table, and gently rubbing first one side and then the other with another part of the cloth. The cloths (worn out handkerchiefs, &c.), used for this purpose should be first cleaned by boiling with carbonate of soda and rinsing in hot filtered or distilled water. If the covers are finally arranged, edge upwards, in a box or drawer between strips of thick white blotting paper, they will be kept clean and the selection of any desired thickness will be greatly facilitated. The strips of blotting paper should be cut two thirds as wide as the cover, should reach from side to side of the drawer, and should be separated at the ends by squares of the same paper, thus forming a rack in which the covers can stand, edge upwards, and from which they can be readily picked out.

He recommends that one or two grooved blocks be kept on the working table, in which covers that have been selected for immediate use may be similarly supported on edge, and from which they can be easily taken by the forceps. Such a block is prepared by setting a circular saw so as to cut only $\frac{3}{8}$ th of an inch deep, and then passing over it several times a block of white wood, in such manner as to cut a series of parallel grooves on the side which is to be used as the top of the block. Standing covers in these grooves is a great improvement on the common method of leaning them against the base of the microscope or some other convenient but unsuitable object.

NEW MICROSCOPICAL JOURNALS.—The *Journal de Micrographie*, published monthly in Paris, under the very able editorial management of Dr. J. Pelletan, has already achieved, within a few months from the time of its first issue, a character of its own, not only as a successful business enterprise, but also as a powerful, independent and original scientific organ. It treats with equal ability and prominence both the theory and use of the microscope, and, in addition to original papers on the subject, gives a thorough and judicious summary of papers and progress in other countries. It is really occupying a field in which it has no competitor in any part of the world, and our only selfish regret about it is that there is not an edition in the English language which would render it useful to a larger number of readers in this country. It is published by G. Masson, 120 Boulevard St. Germain, Paris, France, at \$6 a year.

Prof. Romyn Hitchcock proposes to begin the publication, about the first of November, of a new journal to be called *The American Quarterly Microscopical Journal*. It will be published at three dollars a year, and will give, in addition to illustrated original articles, a summary of the progress of the science, gathered from all available sources. The support of many prominent microscopists has been promised, and the good-will of all will be extended to the attempt to establish a journal of a class which has hardly attempted before to live in this country. The address of the *Journal* is P. O. box 2335, New York City.

NEW AMERICAN OBJECTIVES.—Mr. Frank Wilkins, who formerly worked for the Ross House, of London, but now is with Mr. John Roach, of San Francisco, is making objectives which the members of the San Francisco Society consider equal to a good grade of English lenses. Our Pacific friends are much pleased at this notable addition to their local resources.

MINERALS FOR THE MICROSCOPE.—Mr. Chas. H. Denison, 531 California street, San Francisco, is supplying by mail specimens suitable for the microscope, selected from the characteristic minerals of the Pacific coast. Of course the various forms and combinations of gold, silver and cinnabar are made prominent among the selections offered.